

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WISCONSIN BAY AREA COUNTIES

November 2002



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Bay Area Unadjusted Unemployment Rates Change Little from September To October

The seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate for the Wisconsin Bay Area increased 0.1 of a percentage point during October. This brought the area's rate up to 4.4 percent. While the fact that the unemployment rate was up 0.2 of a percentage point over last year is not good news, at the same time it is not necessarily bad news either. Over the last month and over the year the economy has remained basically stable, despite layoffs due to plant closing and cutbacks in the area.

October is typically a month that has very little change in labor force numbers. Since 1999 the largest swing in the rate was an increase of 0.4 of a percentage point in 2001, overall it has moved up or down very little from the previous month. The number of workers in the labor force and as well as the number of workers employed usually fluctuates less than 1,000 plus or minus or about a third of a percentage point from September. This year falls very much into that same pattern. There may be some variations to this pattern in individual counties within the region however.

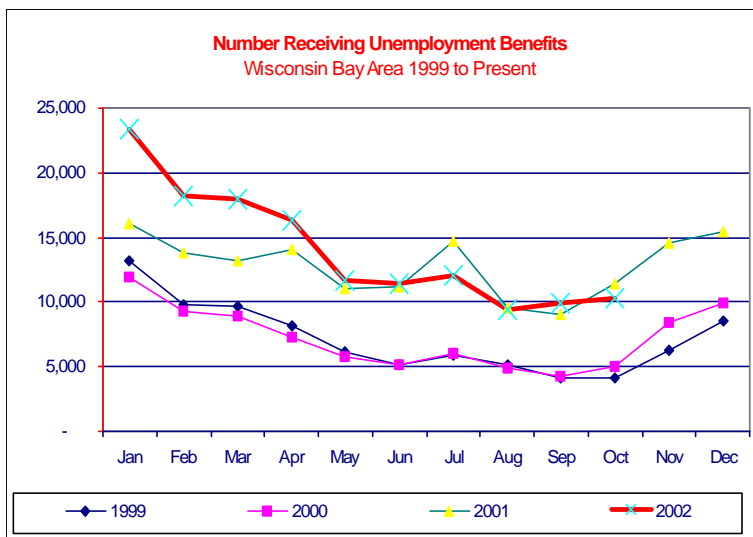
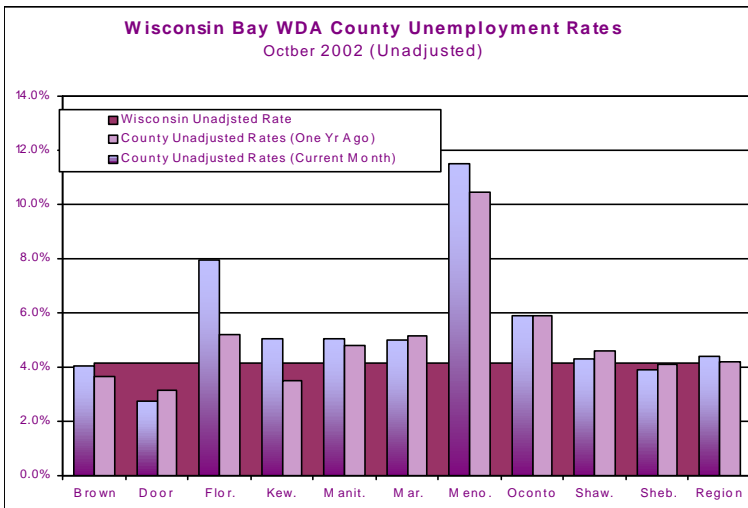
Most of the counties had unemployment rates very close to the statewide average with the exception of Door, Menominee and Oconto Counties. Door re-

mained well below the state's unadjusted rate of 4.1 percent at 2.7 percent. If seasonal patterns hold this will begin to rise during November. While two counties had an increase of over 1.0 of a percentage point, Florence at 8.0 percent and Menominee at 11.5 percent.

Although the unemployment rate is little changed from one year ago with an increase of only 0.2 of a percentage point, the number of individuals unemployed has increased by 800. This is mainly due to an increase of the number of workers that have entered the labor force over the last year. The labor force increased by 3,500, while the number of employed has grown more slowly adding just 2,700.

This is reflected in the graph at left showing the number of individuals that have received at least one unemployment check during the month. The number has increased dramatically during the last two years. However, this seems to be leveling off a bit over the last few months. This may indicate some improvement in the

economy, although due to seasonal patterns the number receiving unemployment benefits should increase over current levels beginning in November and December and continue until early spring.



(Continued on page 2)

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates for August

The seasonally adjusted rate remained unchanged between September and October in the Green Bay MSA, while declining 0.2 of a percentage point in the Sheboygan MSA. The rate for the Green Bay MSA was 4.6 percent. This was 0.4 of a percentage point above the one year ago level. The rate for the Sheboygan MSA was 4.2 percent

and was 0.3 of a percentage point below last October.

The nation's unemployment rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.7 percent. The rate in the State of Wisconsin declined 0.2 of a percentage point to 4.9 percent.

For additional labor market statistics contact our website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>.

Wisconsin Bay Workforce Development Area												
October 2002	Brown	Door	Florn.	Kewan.	Mantw.c.	Marntt.	Menom	Oconto	Shawn.	Sheboy.	Region	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force*	141,700	17,300	1,900	10,800	46,500	22,400	2,400	17,500	20,300	62,000	342,700	3,054,200
Employed	135,900	16,800	1,800	10,300	44,100	21,300	2,100	16,500	19,400	59,500	327,700	2,928,200
Unemployed	5,700	500	200	500	2,300	1,100	300	1,000	900	2,400	15,000	126,000
Unemployment rate(%)	4.0%	2.7%	8.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	11.5%	5.9%	4.3%	3.9%	4.4%	4.1%
Seasonally Adj. Rate (%)	4.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.2%	N/A	4.9%
Total, all industries**	148,300	14,900	1,300	6,700	39,000	20,800	2,000	10,500	12,500	61,000	317,000	2,868,300
Construction & Mining	8,000	1,000	100	600	1,900	600	0	600	500	2,500	15,800	134,000
Manufacturing	27,800	2,600	300	1,900	13,700	6,700	0	3,100	2,400	24,300	82,800	570,600
Transportation & Public Util.	11,400	200	0	500	2,400	1,000	0	400	500	1,800	18,300	133,000
Wholesale Trade	7,800	300	0	200	1,000	600	0	100	400	2,000	12,300	136,500
Retail Trade	26,600	3,900	300	1,100	6,000	3,500	100	1,800	2,500	9,000	54,800	511,300
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	10,300	800	0	300	1,000	600	0	200	400	2,000	15,600	153,800
Services	38,300	4,400	200	1,200	8,600	5,500	0	2,000	2,800	12,700	75,700	804,000
Government	18,100	1,800	300	1,000	4,500	2,400	1,900	2,200	2,800	6,700	41,700	425,000
Change from previous month												
Civilian Labor Force*	300	-500	0	100	100	-100	100	0	-100	-700	-900	4,900
Employed	300	-500	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100	-600	-900	9,700
Unemployed	0	0	0	0	100	-100	0	0	0	0	100	-4,700
Unemployment rate(%)	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.1%	0.2%	-0.3%	1.3%	0.1%	0.1%	-0.1%	0.1%	-0.2%
Seasonally Adj. Rate (%)	0.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-0.2%	N/A	-0.2%
Total, all industries**	400	-500	0	0	0	100	0	-100	-200	-700	-1,100	14,100
Construction & Mining	-400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100	-500	-1,600
Manufacturing	-300	0	0	0	-100	0	0	0	0	-300	-800	-2,200
Transportation & Public Util.	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	800
Wholesale Trade	-100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100	-100
Retail Trade	200	-200	0	0	0	0	0	-100	0	0	-200	3,000
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
Services	200	-300	0	0	0	0	0	-100	-200	-500	-900	-4,000
Government	700	100	0	0	100	100	0	100	100	200	1,400	18,100
Change from year ago												
Civilian Labor Force*	2,000	600	200	-100	600	500	100	700	100	400	3,500	61,200
Employed	1,300	700	100	-300	500	500	100	700	100	100	2,700	57,400
Unemployed	600	0	100	200	100	0	0	0	-100	100	800	3,800
Unemployment rate(%)	0.4%	-0.4%	2.7%	1.5%	0.2%	-0.2%	1.0%	0.0%	-0.3%	-0.2%	0.2%	0.0%
Seasonally Adj. Rate (%)	0.4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-0.3%	N/A	0.2%
Total, all industries**	-500	300	100	-400	-200	300	100	200	-200	-1,800	-2,100	21,900
Construction & Mining	-1,400	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	-300	-1,500	1,500
Manufacturing	-400	0	0	-200	-300	-100	0	-100	0	-1,200	-2,200	-9,400
Transportation & Public Util.	300	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	400	-1,300
Wholesale Trade	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	-1,600
Retail Trade	700	100	0	0	100	0	0	0	-100	0	900	3,700
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	-400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-400	3,000
Services	200	200	0	0	-200	300	0	0	-100	-200	100	25,400
Government	300	-100	0	-200	0	0	100	300	0	0	300	600
* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.												
Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2001												

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

Direct questions and comments to: **Richard Seidemann, Regional Labor Market Analyst**, Sheboygan County Job Center, 3620 Wilgus Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081 920-208-5809 920-459-3845(FAX) E-mail: richard.seidemann@dwd.state.wi.us